

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 091352

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091352

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM BEIRUT DTD 15 APR 1976 QUOTE

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3350

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, LE, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT SEEKS TO COMPOSE SYRIAN/LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVE"
DIFFERENCES

1. BY ALL ACCOUNTS, PLO EXCOM CHAIRMAN, YASSIR 'ARAFAT,
HAS DISCOVERED THE ATTRACTIONS AND VIRTUES OF THE
MEDIATOR. WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM HIS
IMMEDIATE TRAVEL PLANS INDEPENDENTLY, BUT ALL MEDIA
REPORT 15 APRIL THAT HE WILL DEPART FOR DAMASCUS
TODAY IN EFFORT TO BRIDGE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN SYRIANS
AND LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVES" HEADED BY JUMBLATT. 'ARAFAT
SPENT YESTERDAY IN CONSULTATIONS WITH LEBANESE NOTABLES
OF THE LEFT AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH SYRIANS. "'ARAKFAT
PLAN" FOR RECONCILIATION WAS REPORTEDLY UNVEILED TO

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PAGE 02 STATE 091352

LEBANESE "PROGRESSIVES" EVENING 14 APRIL AND IT IS

RUMORED THAT JUMBLATT HAS DELEGATED 'ARAFAT TO SPEAK FOR HIM IN ACHIEVING DENOUEMENT OF CRISIS WITH SYRIA.

2. 'ARAFAT PLAN, AS WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PIECE IT TOGETHER FROM PRESS ACCOUNTS AND OTHER LEAKS, IS PREDICATED UPON SYRIAN AGREEMENT TO HOLD THEIR FORCES IN LEBANON IN PRESENT POSITIONS AND NOT REPEAT NOT ESCALATE MILITARY PRESSURE AGAINST THE LEBANESE LEFT. HEART OF ALLEGED PLAN IS CONTAINED IN FOLLOWING THREE POINTS:

A) ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT ON BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT OR COMPROMISE AMONG COMPETING FACTIONS (PREVIOUS SPECULATION RE 'ARAFAT'S TRIP HAD CENTEGED ON HIS ALLEGED INTENTION TO COORDINATE SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN POSITIONS ON IDENTITY OF FRANGIE'S SUCCESSOR).
B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MIXED COMMISSION (INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF SYRIA, THE PLO, THE LEBANESE ARMY (CHRISTIAN AND MOSLEM FACTIONS, AS WELL AS RIGHT- AND LEFT-WING PARTIES) TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RE-ESTABLISHING ORDER AND SECURITY IN LEBANON.
C) COMPLETE OR PARTIAL ABANDONMENT OF FRANGIE'S "BAABDA DECLARATION" (17 POINTS) OF 14 FEBRUARY WHICH WERE TO FORM THE BASIS FOR SYRIAN-SPONSORED POLITICAL SOLUTION. (IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BASIC FIVE POINTS OF ORIGINAL SYRIAN INITIATIVE, TO WHICH "PROGRESSIVES" FORMALLY AGREED, WILL BE RETAINED BUT MORE DEEP-SEATED POLITICAL REFORMS COULD BE ADDED AS A SOP TO JUMBLATT AND HIS ALLIES.
BROWN UNQTE KISSINGER

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